



WEST MIDLANDS
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Meeting: Transport Delivery Committee

Subject: Minutes

Date: Monday 8 May 2017 at 1.00pm

Present:

Councillor Richard Worrall (Chair)	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Philip Davis (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Pervez Akhtar	Coventry City Council
Councillor Robert Alden	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Susan Eaves	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Mohammed Fazal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Kath Hartley	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Diana Holl-Allen	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Roger Horton	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Timothy Huxtable	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Chaman Lal	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Keith Linnecor	Birmingham City Council
Councillor Ted Richards	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Judith Rowley	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor David Stanley	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Daniel Warren	City of Wolverhampton Council
Councillor David Welsh	Coventry City Council

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew and Brothwood.

In attendance:

Sophie Allison (Metro Operations Manager)
Mark Babington (Safer Travel Manager)
Andre Bromfield (Corporate Solicitor)
Linda Horne (Head of Finance)
Chris Lane (Head of Smart Travel)
Matt Lewis (Head of Swift)
Peter Sargent (Head of Rail)
Colin Seward (National Express Midland Metro)
Laura Shoaf (Managing Director, TfWM)

106/16 Chair's Remarks

(i) Date of Next Meeting

The Chair proposed that the date of the next meeting on 5 June 2017 be moved by one week due to the General Election being held later that week. This proposal was agreed by the committee.

Resolved that the date of the next Transport Delivery Committee be moved from 5 June 2017 to 12 June 2017 at 1.00pm.

(ii) Appointment of West Midlands Mayor

The Chair reported that he had conveyed his congratulations to the new mayor, Andy Street via his Chief of Staff, on his recent appointment and that he had invited the Mayor to attend the next meeting of this committee.

(iii) Roaming Bus Tour - 89 Bus Service

The Chair reminded members that he had arranged a roaming bus tour of the 89 service for 9 May and that members would be welcome to join the tour if they were interested.

107/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2017 were agreed, and signed by the Chair, as a correct record.

108/16 Matters Arising

(a) Bus Report (*minute no. 101/16*)

Councillor Richards reported that little notice had been given with regards to changes to bus services in East Birmingham and Solihull and that the changes made were not in accordance with those National Express had consulted on. He advised that the changes made were substantial changes that left some areas without a bus service.

Laura Shoaf, Managing Director, reported that she understood the position and the Director of Transport Services, Steve McAleavy, would work with Councillor Richards and National Express to look at rectifying the position.

Councillor Horton reported that there had been poor consultation regarding bus services in Sandwell and asked whether the Bus Alliance would look into this.

The Managing Director reported that she had only recently received a letter from the Leader of Sandwell Council regarding the Sandwell and Dudley ticket offered by National Express and the matter would be taken forward.

Councillor Horton added that an earlier letter had also been sent to TfWM in February regarding the lack of consultation on bus services in Sandwell.

109/16 Financial Outturn Report

The committee considered a report of the Corporate Services Director that set out the financial outturn position as at 31 March 2017.

The Head of Finance, Linda Horne, was in attendance to present the report.

In relation to the minor scheme programmes and in the particular cycle facilities provision that had been delayed due to landlord's consent from London Midland, Councillor Rowley, Lead Member for Safe and Sustainable Travel, enquired as to the reasons for the delay to the consent, whether London Midland had a green travel/sustainable transport policy and how this position could be improved upon in future.

Linda Horne undertook to provide a briefing note to Councillor Rowley on the matter.

Councillor Horton, Lead Member for Rail and Metro, reported that he, the Chair and Councillor Huxtable would be attending a quarterly partnership meeting with London Midland tomorrow morning and the issue (the delay to the cycle facilities provision) could be raised with the company at the meeting, if a briefing note was provided in advance to the three members [A briefing note was circulated to the relevant members in time for the meeting].

Resolved:

- (1) That the full year results for 2016/17 show a deficit for the year £0.856m at the end of the financial year being an adverse movement of (£0.074m) from the forecast position previously reported be noted and
- (2) That the total capital expenditure within the overall transport programme was under budget by £3.4m (8%) be noted.

110/16 Capital Programme Delivery Monitoring Report

The committee considered a report of the Head of Programme Development that provided a progress monitoring update on the approved TfWM led 2016/17 programme and projects.

Resolved:

- (1) That achievements since March 6 2017 meeting of this committee be noted;
- (2) That progress on the deliverables under 2016/17 Capital Programme with respect to the baseline programmes previously endorsed be noted and
- (3) That variations from the baseline programme where indicated be noted.

111/16 Metro Operations Business Report

The committee considered a report of the Metro Programme Director that provided an update on operational matters/ performance, partnerships, tram passenger survey and on future planning and delivery.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Rowley regarding replacement buses for the Bilston Road track replacement works and the need to continue running services in the evenings and on Sundays, Sophie Allison, the Metro Operations Manager, reported that replacement bus services would provide for evenings and Sunday services and the service frequency would match the tram frequency.

In relation to a further enquiry from Councillor Rowley regarding the completion date for the Bilston Road track replacement works as to whether the works would be completed before Christmas or the end of November 2017 and the need for the works to be completed at the earliest opportunity, the Metro Operations Manager reported that there is 'float' in the programme and the contractors would aim to have the works completed before Christmas but there was no definitive end date at the present time.

With regards to publicising the transport arrangements to customers whilst the works are carried out to Bilston Road, the Metro Operations Manager explained the different methods that would be utilised to notify customers which included posters, leaflets, messages on websites, at tram stops and on-tram displays.

Resolved that the report be noted.

112/16 Snow Hill Station - Rail and Metro Interchange

The committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Transport Services that informed members of the arrangements for interchange between rail and Metro at Birmingham Snow Hill and the proposals for improving these.

Councillor Horton, Lead Member for Rail and Metro, reported that there was a need for good interchange between rail and Metro at Snow Hill and that he supported the development of the new St Chad's access into Birmingham but funding had yet not been identified.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Davis, reported that he welcomed the report and for the committee to be involved in the matter on behalf of service users. He reported that assurance should be sought from Network Rail that they support a temporary access for Snow Hill at platform 3.

The Head of Rail reported that Network Rail had previously advised that they would not support a temporary access at platform 3 as this would impact on the usage of platform 4 and would require additional passenger facilities.

Councillor Davis asked that the Head of Rail formally seek the views of Network Rail on the temporary access for Snow Hill.

In relation to the interchange options available to passengers at Snow Hill outlined in the report, Councillor Rowley reported that these would be different for people with disabilities and enquired why the second access at Snow Hill was still closed after 7.00pm Monday to Saturday and not open at all on a Sunday when people wanted to access the residential areas and leisure facilities in the Jewellery Quarter and St. Paul's area of the city.

The Head of Rail agreed that there were different interchange options for changing between rail and Metro at Snow Hill but reported that it would be difficult to provide clear messages if many interchange options were presented to customers. In relation to the opening hours of the second access at Snow Hill, he reported that the opening hours were funded by Centro when the access first opened and have remained the same ever since. The Head of Rail reported that the matter needed to be raised with London Midland again and that he also planned to speak to the new rail franchise operator on the issue.

Resolved:

- (1) That the arrangements for the interchange between rail and Metro at Birmingham Snow Hill be noted;
- (2) That the short-term actions TfWM is undertaking to improve the interchange be noted and
- (3) That TfWM is taking forward the development of the new St. Chad's access into Birmingham Snow Hill Station as a separate project not as part of the Metro programme of schemes be noted.

113/16 Passenger Information Update

The committee considered a report of the Managing Director that provided an update on the passenger information activities of Transport for the West Midlands from January 2017 to March 2017.

Councillor Hartley, Lead Member for Putting Passengers First, advised the committee that this was an encouraging report and highlighted to the committee that all operators would shortly aim to 'feed in' data for real time information (RTI).

In relation to an enquiry from the Chair as to whether there was a policy or programme to expand RTI across the West Midlands, Chris Lane, Head of Smart Travel, reported that RTI was being added to bus stations and interchanges as and when facilities were upgraded or as part of new developments as no funding was available to extend RTI wider across the network. The Head of Smart Travel advised that open data was available free of charge for use on apps.

In relation to the work of the Passenger Information Innovation Group that is looking at the re-design of passenger information, Councillor Rowley reported that it was important to take into consideration hidden disabilities such as dyslexia, people with learning difficulties and foreign visitors and suggested the use of pictorial information/maps.

The Head of Smart Travel thanked Councillor Rowley for her excellent observation and reported that the Equalities and Diversity Manager, Anna Sirmoglou, was a member of the Passenger Information Innovation Group and that they were looking at simplifying information.

Resolved that the activities with respect to information provision and the progress being made towards all operator real-time information be noted.

114/16 Swift Delivery Update

The committee received a presentation from the Head of Swift, Matt Lewis that provided an update on recent achievements with regards to the delivery of Swift products, the programme for the remainder of the year and future plans.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Rowley regarding the validity of the new nbus multi-dayticket on Swift that would be of benefit to part-time workers, the Head of Swift advised that the product would be valid for a year.

In relation to the Swift pilot being undertaken in Redditch and an enquiry from Councillor Warren as to whether there are any plans to have a similar pilot in Staffordshire so as to include places on the boundary of Wolverhampton such as Codsall, Perton and Wombourne, the Head of Swift reported that discussions could be held with WMCA non-constituent to authorities to consider a pilot based on the Redditch model.

Resolved that the presentation be noted.

115/16 Safer Travel Update

The committee considered a report of the interim Director of Transport Services that provided an update on the performance and operations of the Safer Travel Partnership and also provided an overview of the development of the TfWM Control Centre.

Councillor Rowley, Lead Member for Safe and Sustainable Transport, reported that she had asked the Safer Travel Manager to include crime statistics for other regions in future reports so that a comparison could be made with the West Midlands.

In relation to the current crime statistics, the Safer Travel Manager, Mark Babington reported that crime on bus was falling which was a good news story but crime had increased by 11% on rail. He advised that 5-6% (of 11%) could be attributed to the change made to reporting rail crime whilst another factor was that crime is recorded at the final destination. The Safer Travel Manager explained that as Birmingham was the termination point for a lot of journeys, the crime was recorded as being committed in Birmingham even though it could have occurred elsewhere.

Resolved:

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted and
- (2) That the overall current crime trends referred to in the report be noted.

116/16 WMCA Update – Transport Reports For Information Only

(a) Midland Metro Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension

The committee considered a report on the Midland Metro Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension that had been approved by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board at its meeting on 21 April.

The Managing Director, Laura Shoaf, explained that the report had been submitted to the WMCA Board to provide an update on the ongoing Wednesbury to Brierley Hill Extension development work, to seek financial cover for the local element of funding from WMCA to enable submission of a business case to Government and to seek approval to submit an Initial Outline Business Case for the scheme to Government.

Councillor Huxtable referred to the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill route plan given in the report and enquired whether the Metro stop at Canal Street would be linked to heavy rail (HS2 scheme) to provide a seamless interchange across the modes. He also referred to linkages to the Brierley Hill and Pensnett Enterprise Zone, whether local people had been consulted on the location of the Metro stops and noted that the location of some stops on the report map differed to those on the leaflet for the scheme.

The Managing Director advised that route plan and stops for the scheme were currently provisional as the purpose of the report was to seek funding approval for the extension; no other decisions were required at this stage. With regards to the Canal Street Station and the Enterprise Zone, the Managing Director undertook to look into matter and respond to Councillor Huxtable.

In relation to an enquiry from Councillor Stanley regarding Dudley Bus Station and the access for Metro into and out of the bus station, the Managing Director advised that a feasibility study would be completed later this month and that she would provide Councillor Stanley with a briefing on the matter.

117/16 Forward Plan

The committee considered a report of agenda items to be submitted to future meetings.

In relation to the next meeting on 12 June, the Chair reported that he would submit an end of year review report on the work of this committee.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN